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THE COUNTY BOUNDARIES OF NEW MEXICO

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THE COUNTY BOUNDARIES OF NEW MEXICO

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The counties of New Mexico during the last years of Mexican rule and the years of American control prior to the formation of the territorial government were marked upon a map by James S. Calhoun.[1] The counties shown were Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Ana, Bernalillo, San Miguel del Bado, and Valencia. These formed the basis for the later poltical subdivisions of the territory and state. The Second Legislative Assembly passed two acts affecting county boundaries. The first of these created Doña Ana County out of that part of Socorro County lying south of an east and west line passing through the center of the "Laguna in the Jornado."[2] The fact that Socorro existed on January 6, 1852 when the above act was passed and was not shown on Calhoun's map makes the conclusion imperative that it must have come into existence between 1850 and 1852 but the writer has not been able to find the exact date. The second act passed January 9, 1852 stated that the counties should be the same in name as formerly but provided for a complete change in the boundary lines, which were defined as follows:[3]

Taos County included all of the territory north of the line running west from Tetilla de la Petaca to the California line; and southeast from Tetilla de la Petaca through Embudo, Rincones, and Las Trampas to the junction of the Mora and the Sapello rivers, and thence due east to the Texas line.[4]

Rio Arriba County was bounded on the north by Taos

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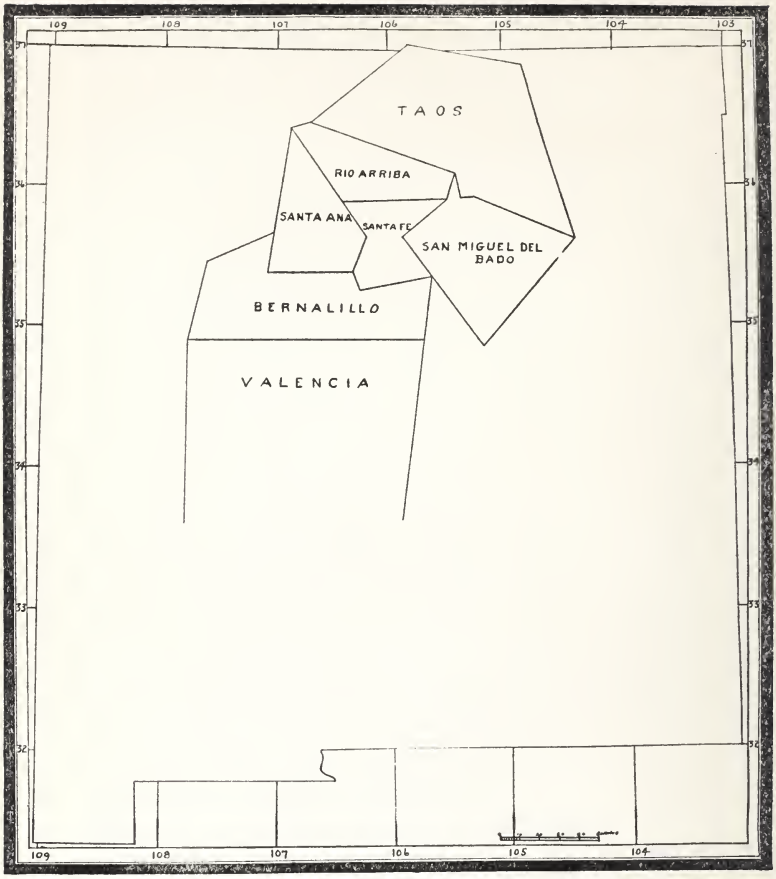
[1]A. H. Abel, ed., *The Official Correspondence of James S. Calhoun...* Map No. 1 shows the Mexican counties.

[2]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1851–52*, p. 265.

[3]Map No. 2 shows the counties as changed in 1852.

[4]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1851–52*, p. 291.

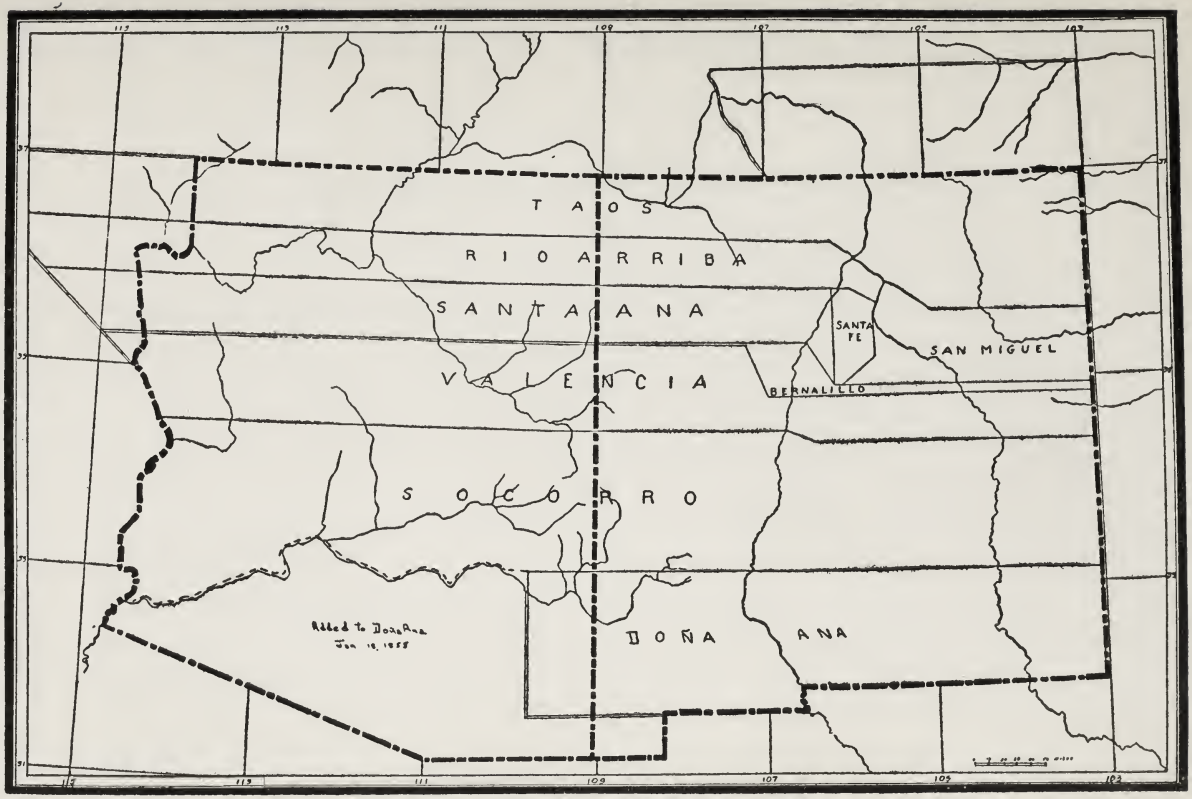


No. 1—New Mexico Counties in 1850

County; on the west by the California line; on the south by a line to the west runnng from the Mesilla of San Yldefonso to the California line, and east from San Yldefonso to the Puertocito of Pojuaque, thence to Cundiyo, and thence south to the summit of Mt. Nambé; and on the east the line ran from Mt. Nambé north along the summit of the range to the Taos line.[5]

Santa Fé County was bounded on the north by Rio Arriba

[5]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1851–52*, p. 291.



No. 2—New Mexico Counties in 1852

County; on the east by a line from Torreones to the southeast corner of Rio Arriba County, and from Torreones south to Salinas in Galisteo Mountain and thence to Cibolo Spring; on the south by a line from Cibolo Spring to San Ysidro; and on the west by a line from San Ysidro to Juan Lopez, thence to the mouth of Las Bocas Cañon, and from that point to the Rio Arriba County line.[6]

San Miguel County was bounded on the north by Rio Arriba and Taos counties; on the west by Santa Fé County; on the east by the Texas line; and on the south by a line from Cibolo Spring to Berrendo Spring and thence due east to the Texas line.[7]

Santa Ana County was bounded on the north by Rio Arriba County; on the east by Santa Fé County; on the west by the California line; and on the south by a line running west from a point between Bernalillo and the lands previously belonging to the Santa Ana Indians to the California line, and to the east from the said point to the parallel dividing Santa Fé County from San Miguel County.[8]

Bernalillo County was bounded on the west by the California line; on the north by Santa Ana and San Miguel counties; on the east by the Texas line; and on the south by a line running west from the Bosque de los Pinos to the Quelites del Puerco and continuing in the direction of the Cañon of Juan Tafoya until it reaches the California line, and east from the Bosque de los Pinos to the Cañon Infierno and thence to the Texas line.[9]

Valencia County was bounded on the west by the California line; on the north by Bernalillo County; on the east by the Texas line; and on the south by a line running to the west from a point between the town of José Pino and the house of José Antonio Chavez, thence crossing the Rio Grande on the dividing line between Belen and Sabinal, and continuing in the direction of the Cañada of the Alamito

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[6]*Ibid.*, p. 291.
[7]*Ibid.*, p. 291.
[8]*Ibid.*, p. 292.
[9]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1851–52*, p. 292.

del Rio Puerco and the Puerto de la Bolita de Oro to the California line, and to the east from the point between the town of José Pino and the house of José Antonio Chavez to the Bocas Abo, and thence east to the Texas line.[10]

Socorro County was bounded on the west by the California line; on the north by Valencia County; on the east by the Texas line; and on the south by a line running to the west from the Muerto Spring, in the Jornado, to the California line, and to the east from the Muerto Spring to the Texas line.[11]

Doña Ana County was bounded on the north by Socorro County; on the east by the Texas line; on the south by the Texas and the Mexico line, and on the west by the Mexico line.[12]

The first change in these boundaries came as a result of the Gadsden Purchase. The area included in that addition to the United States was annexted to the Territory of New Mexico by an Act of Congress August 4, 1854, and the Fifth Legislative Assembly of New Mexico made that region a part of Doña Ana County January 18, 1855.[13]

The Tenth Legislative Assembly created two new counties by an act passed February 1, 1860. One of these was Mora County which was bounded on the north and east by the New Mexico line; on the south by San Miguel County; and on the west by the ridge that divides the Taos Valley from Mora and Rayado. The other was Arizona County which included all of that part of Doña Ana County west of a north and south line passing through a point one mile east of the Overland Mail Station and Apache Cañon.[14]

San Juan County was created by the Eleventh Legislative Assembly January 12, 1861. It was bounded on the west by the California line; on the north by the New Mexico line; on the east by a line running north and south ten miles

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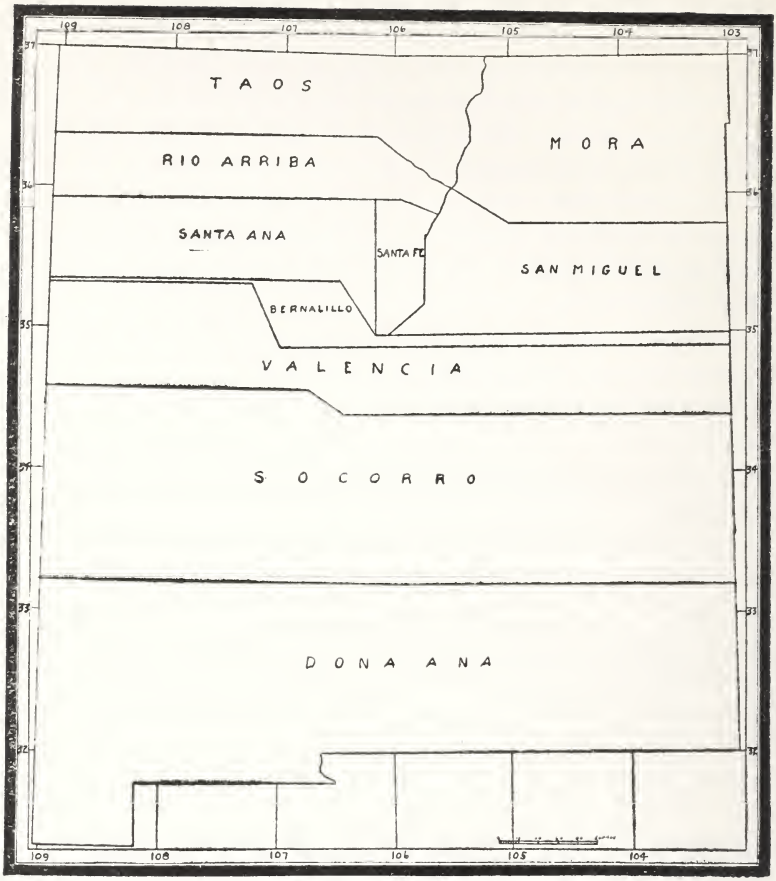
[10]*Ibid.*

[11]*Ibid.*

[12]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1851–52,* p. 292.

[13]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1854–55,* p. 57.

[14]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1859–60,* p. 76. See Map No. 3.



No. 3—New Mexico Counties in 1860

east of the town of Pagosa; and on the south by a line running east and west ten miles south of the southern most bend of the San Juan River. This county was abolished by the Twelfth Legislative Assembly, January 18, 1862.[15]

The same act that repealed the law creating San Juan County also abolished Arizona County and reannexed that area to Doña Ana County. The Thirteenth Legislative As-

[15]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1860–61*, p. 17; New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1861–62*, p. 16.

sembly repealed the above act abolishing Arizona County, January 28, 1863. Shortly after, February 24, 1863, Arizona Territory was created by an Act of Congress.[16]

The creation of Colorado Territory resulted in the reduction of the size of Mora County by including in that territory all of New Mexico north of the 37th parallel of latitude.

The eastern boundary of Santa Fé County was redefined by an act of the Fourteenth Legislative Assembly passed February 3, 1864. The new line ran from the Punto de los Torreones to the Spring of San Miguel, thence to the Colorado corner at the rise of Cañon Blanco, and thence to Cibolo Spring.[17]

The southern boundary of Socorro County was redefined by the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly, January 31, 1867. The act provided that the line should run from a point one mile below Caballo Mountain in a direct line to the Arizona boundary.[18]

The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly redefined January 30, 1868 the boundary between Taos and Mora counties. This line ran from the first hill west of Mora Valley and east of the Jicarita, thence across the Vega del Estillero, thence through the Cañada del Raton to the foot of Oshá hill, and thence along the eastern base of the range in a northeasterly direction to the Colorado line.[19]

Grant County was created by the Eighteenth Legislative Assembly, January 30, 1868. It was bounded on the south by the Mexican line; on the west by the Arizona line; on the north by an east and west line running through the Ojo del Múerto; and on the east by a line drawn north and south between ranges seven and eight west.[20]

Lincoln County was organized by an act of the Legislative Assembly, January 16, 1869 out of the eastern part of Socorro County. It was bounded on the west by a line

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[16]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1862–63*, p. 30.
[17]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1863–64*, p. 88.
[18]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1866–67*, p. 104.
[19]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1867–68*, p. 106.
[20]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1867–68*, p. 88.

drawn north and south from Malpais; on the north by Valencia County, and a line running from thence east without interfering with the boundary of San Miguel County (This shows that the southern line of San Miguel County had been extended to the south in such a manner as to take in the eastern part of Bernalillo County and Valencia County but no law to that effect has been found although the maps of the period show this enlarged San Miguel County); on the east by the Texas line; and on the south by an east and west line passing through the head of El Ojo de Tularosa.[21]

Colfax County was created January 25, 1869. It was bounded on the north by the Colorado line; on the east by the Texas line; on the south by the Rayado Grant; and on the west by Taos County.[22]

The boundaries of Santa Fé County were extended January 18, 1869. The new line ran from Nambé Mountain westward in such a manner as to include Las Truchas precinct of Rio Arriba County in Santa Fé County, and from the south side of the said precinct along the Rio del Quemado, including all of the houses in the canyon to the point where the Rio del Quemado empties into the Rio del Potrero, thence westward along the Rio de la Cañada to the Rio Grande; and thence southward to the lap of the Mesita de San Ildefonso. It was probably due to the obscurity of this description that this law was repealed the following year, January 13, 1870.[23]

The boundary between Doña Ana County and Socorro County was redefined January 10, 1870. The new line ran eastwardly from the northeastern corner of Grant County to the Ojo del Muerto near Fort McRae on the Jornado, and from thence to the eastern boundary of Doña Ana County and Socorro County.[24]

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[21]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1868–69*, p. 20.

[22]*Ibid.*, p. 47.

[23]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1868–69*, p. 28; New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1869–70*, p. 40. See Map No. 4.

[24]*Ibid.*, p. 36.

The southern boundary of Bernalillo County was changed January 13, 1870. The new line began at the southern foot of the Loma de Isleta where it strikes the Rio Grande and ran east to the Cañon del Infierno, and from thence followed the old line of Bernalillo County and Valencia County.[25]

The Socorro-Doña Ana County boundary was redefined December 29, 1871. The new line was described as running eastwardly from the northeastern corner of Grant County to one mile south of Caballo Mountain in the Jornado del Muerto and thence to the eastern boundary of Doña Ana County and Socorro County.[26]

Santa Ana County was abolished January 13, 1876 and the area annexed to Bernalillo County. This was the only case in which one of the original counties disappeared from the map.[27]

The boundary line between Mora County and Colfax County was redefined January 13, 1876. The new line ran from the eastern border of New Mexico through the center of Township Twenty-three north to the Taos County line.[28]

Lincoln County was enlarged February 15, 1878, the new county including within its boundaries the eastern part of Doña Ana County. The boundary followed the southern line of Lincoln County to the parallel of twenty-eight degrees and thirty minutes West of Washington and followed that line to the Texas border on the south. All of the land to the east of this line was made a part of Lincoln County.[29]

The western part of Taos County was annexed to Rio Arriba County February 10, 1880. All of Taos County west of the western side of the public road running from Hot Springs to the Rio Arriba County line, and thence toward Conejos in Colorado as far as the New Mexico

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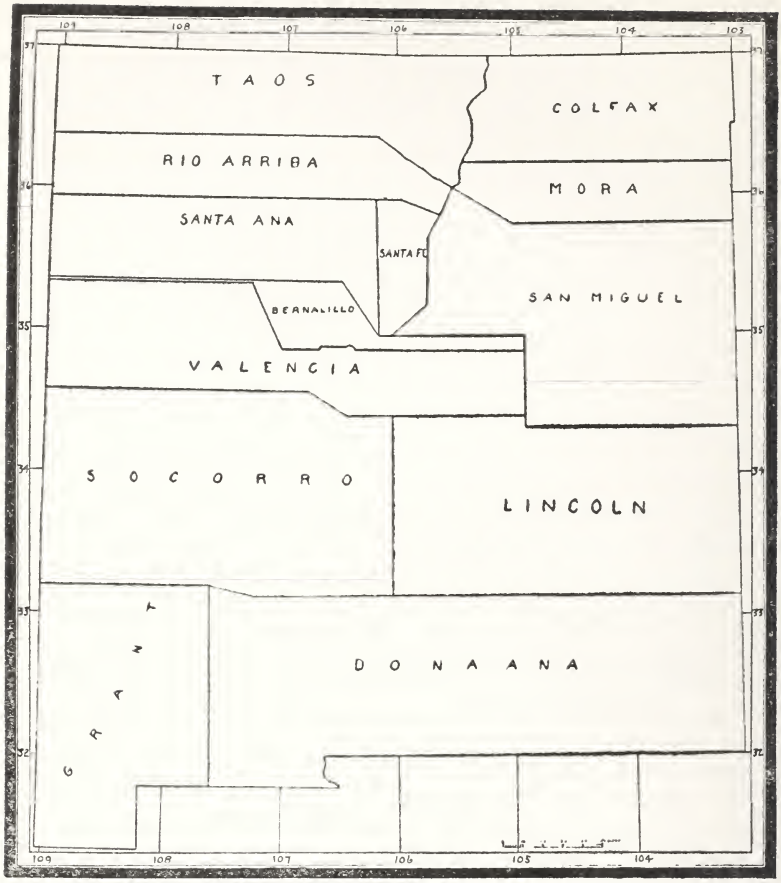
[25]*Ibid.*, p. 44.

[26]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1871–72*, p. 4. See map No. 4.

[27]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1875–76*, p. 38.

[28]*Ibid.*, p. 162.

[29]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1878*, p. 83.



No. 4—New Mexico Counties in 1870

border, was made a part of Rio Arriba County. The line between Taos County and Rio Arriba County was further defined February 10, 1880. The new line ran from the point where the boundary between Taos County and Rio Arriba County crossed the Rio Grande north to the house of Antonio Domingo Lucero, thence west to the summit of the Hot Springs Mountain, thence north to the mouth of Cañada de los Comanches, thence following the wagon road

to the Colorado line in such a manner that the Hot Springs and the houses there should remain in Taos County.[30]

The dividing line between Socorro County and Doña Ana County was changed February 11, 1880. The new line ran one mile south of the house of Tomas Gonzales on the Rio Grande, thence southwest to a point one-quarter of a mile south of Ojito del Cuervo; thence west to a point one mile west of the Ojo de Berrendo; thence in a northwest direction to the ranchos called the Ojo del Berrendo, Cienega de los Paseños, Jaraloso, Enciso, Cienaga de los Apaches, Las Perchas, and Ojo Caliente to a point on a line with the northern line of Grant County so that the above named places should be in Socorro County, and that Hillsboro and Santa Barbara should be in Doña Ana County; and to the east from the place of beginning of the above described line to a point a few miles north and west of the town of Tularosa in Doña Ana County.[31]

The eastern line of Grant County was changed February 12, 1880. The new line ran between Ranges 7 and 8 West as formerly, except that the country within a radius of five miles of Hillsboro was included in Doña Ana County.[32]

The boundary line between Mora County and San Miguel County was redefined January 17, 1882. The new line ran from a point five hundred yards north of the house of Leandro Sanchez, at Penasco Blanco, thence westward to the corner of Santa Fé County and Rio Arriba County; and to the east from Penasco Blanco to the fall and source of the Arroyo de la Jara, thence to its junction with the Rio Sapello, thence down the Rio Sapello to the old bridge and over El Sapellocito; thence east to the Pinos Altos, all settlements on both sides of the Mora River to remain in Mora County from Pinos Altos up and Pinos Altos down; thence in a direct line to the Texas boundary.[33]

The boundary between Colfax County and Mora County

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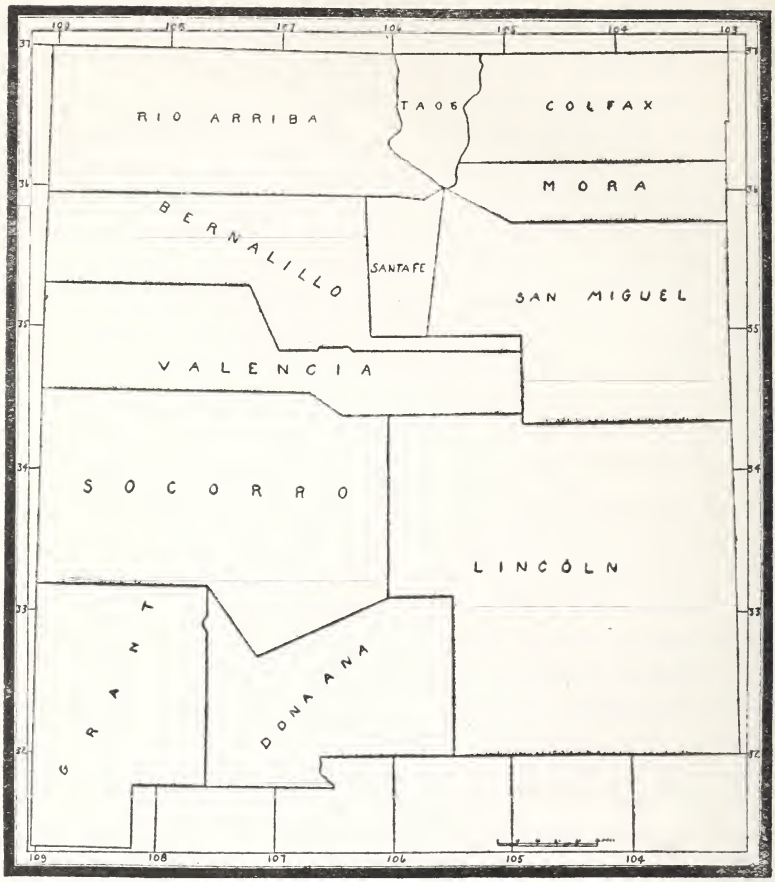
[30]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1880*, p. 103. See Map No. 5.
[31]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1880*, p. 98.
[32]*Ibid.*, p. 99.
[33]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1882*, p. 176.



No. 5—New Mexico Counties in 1880

was changed January 31, 1882. The new boundary ran on the north line of Township 23 North in Ranges 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 East; thence along the Range line between Ranges 19 and 20 East to the line as established January 13, 1876.[34]

The Santa Fé County boundary line was redefined March 4, 1882. The new line started from the corner of Rio Arriba, Taos, Mora, and San Miguel Counties; thence

[34]*Ibid.*, p. 158.

south to the Torreones of the Serrito de la Tijera and the Serro of the Perdenal Spring to a point near the Bernalillo County line; thence west to the Cibolo Spring and to the Spring of Juan Tafoya; thence north to the Puertocito of San Ysidro la Cuchilla, Sinana, Alamitos, and La Sama which is on the Mesa of Juana Lopez, to the Rio Arriba County line.[35]

Sierra County was organized April 3, 1884 from parts of Socorro, Grant, and Doña Ana Counties.[36]

San Juan County was created February 24, 1887 out of the western part of Rio Arriba County.[37]

Doña Ana County was slightly enlarged February 24, 1887, by the addition of parts of Township 18 South, Ranges 3 and 4 West. After the organization of Sierra County this area although surrounded by Sierra and Doña Ana counties yet remained a part of Socorro County. It was to remedy this situation that the region was attached to Doña Ana County.[38]

The eastern boundary of Doña Ana County was changed February 24, 1887. The new line ran from the northeastern corner of Doña Ana County north to the Second Parallel South; thence west to the eastern boundary of Socorro County; thence south to the northern boundary of Doña Ana County.[39]

The Mora County and San Miguel County boundary was changed February 12, 1889. The new line ran west from a point five hundred yards north of the house of Leandro Sanchez at Peña Blanca to the eastern boundary of Santa Fé County, and east from the said point to the fall and source of the Arroyo de la Jara, thence to the junction of the arroyo with the Sapello, thence following down the river to the old government bridge or crossing over the El Sapellocito; thence to the Pinos Altos, leaving all the

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[35]*Ibid.*, p. 174.
[36]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1884*, p. 223.
[37]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1887*, p. 38.
[38]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1887*, p. 39.
[39]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1887*, p. 39.

settlements, on both sides of the Mora River and within the valley of the said river, in Mora County; thence east to the Texas line.[40]

The Doña Ana County and the Lincoln County boundary was changed February 12, 1889. The new line ran from a point on the Second Parallel South between Ranges 10 and 11 East; thence south to the township line between Townships 12 and 13 South; thence east to a point due north of a point where the range line between Ranges 12 and 13 South of the Fourth Standard Parallel "line" between Townships 25 and 26 South; thence due south to the intersection of said range and along it to the Texas boundary.[41]

Chaves County and Eddy County were created February 25, 1889, from the eastern part of Lincoln County. All of Lincoln County east of the following line was cut off. The line started at the northern border of Lincoln County between Ranges 19 and 20 East, ran south to the First Standard Parallel; thence directly south between Ranges 20 and 21 East to the Third Standard Parallel; thence east to a point where the range line south of the Third Standard Parallel between Ranges 21 and 22 strikes the same; thence due south to the Texas boundary. That part of this area cut off from Lincoln lying south of the Third Standard Parallel was called Eddy, and the part north Chaves.[42]

The boundaries of Santa Fé County were redefined and changed February 28, 1889. The lines were described by range and township lines and the southern boundary was extended to the boundary of Valencia County thus including a row of townships formerly a part of Bernalillo County. These lands were restored to Bernalillo County February 25, 1891. The eastern line of Bernalillo County ran between Ranges 6 and 7 East, to the northwest corner of the Mesita de Juan Lopez grant; thence east to the said

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[40]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1889*, p. 89.
[41]*Ibid.*, p. 92.
[42]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1889*, p. 202.

corner; thence north one mile; thence west to the above mentioned range line.[43]

Guadalupe County was created February 26, 1891 from the southern part of San Miguel County. It was bounded on the east by the Texas line, on the north by San Miguel County, on the south by Chaves and Lincoln counties, and on the west by a line running from the northeast corner of Township 11 North, Range 16 East, thence south between Ranges 15 and 16 East, to the southeast corner of Township 9 North; thence east between Townships 8 and 9 North to the northeast corner of Township 8 North of Range 18 East; thence south on line between Ranges 18 and 19 East to the northeast corner of Township 1 North of Range 18 East. Due to some mistakes in the wording of the act it was re-enacted February 11, 1893.[44]

The northern and western boundaries of Lincoln County were changed February 13, 1893. The boundary between Lincoln County and Valencia County was fixed on the township line between Townships 1 and 2 North. The boundary between Lincoln County and Socorro County was defined as running between Ranges 8 and 9 East.[45]

Union County was organized February 23, 1893 from the eastern part of San Miguel, Mora and Colfax counties. This act was amended February 28, 1895 in order to correct the wording in the original act.[46]

The western boundary of Eddy County was changed January 16, 1895. The new line ran from the northwest corner of Township 16 South of Range 21 East, thence south between Ranges 20 and 21 East to the Texas line.[47]

The eastern and the northern boundaries of Bernalillo County were changed February 28, 1895. The new lines

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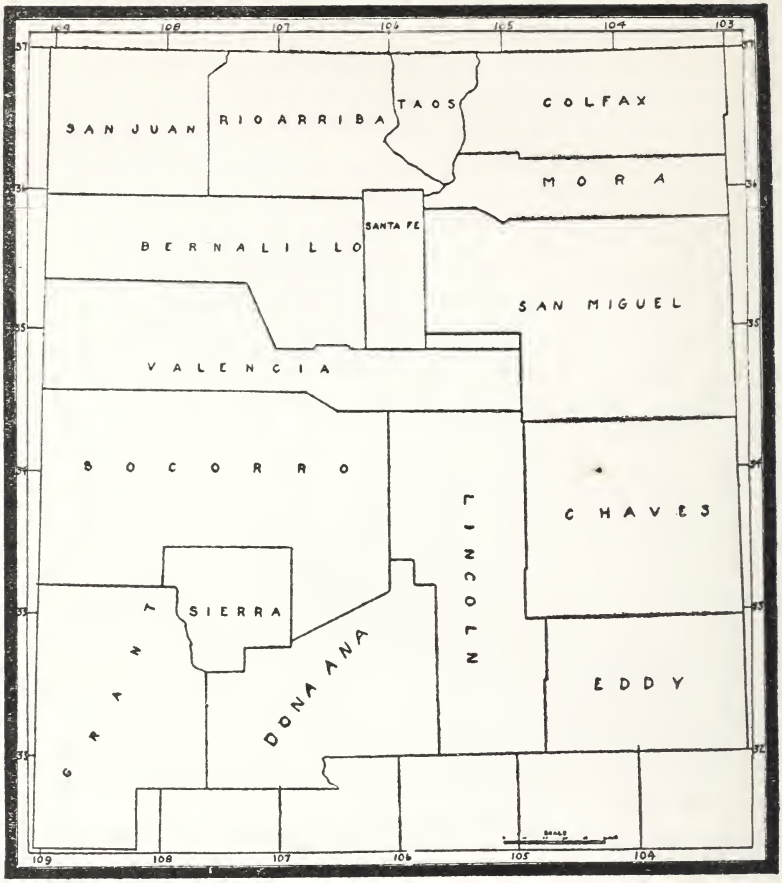
[43]*Ibid.*, p. 301; New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1891*, p. 106. See Map No. 6.

[44]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1891*, p. 175; New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1893*, p. 32.

[45]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1893*, p. 36.

[46]*Ibid.*, p. 68; New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1895*, p. 43.

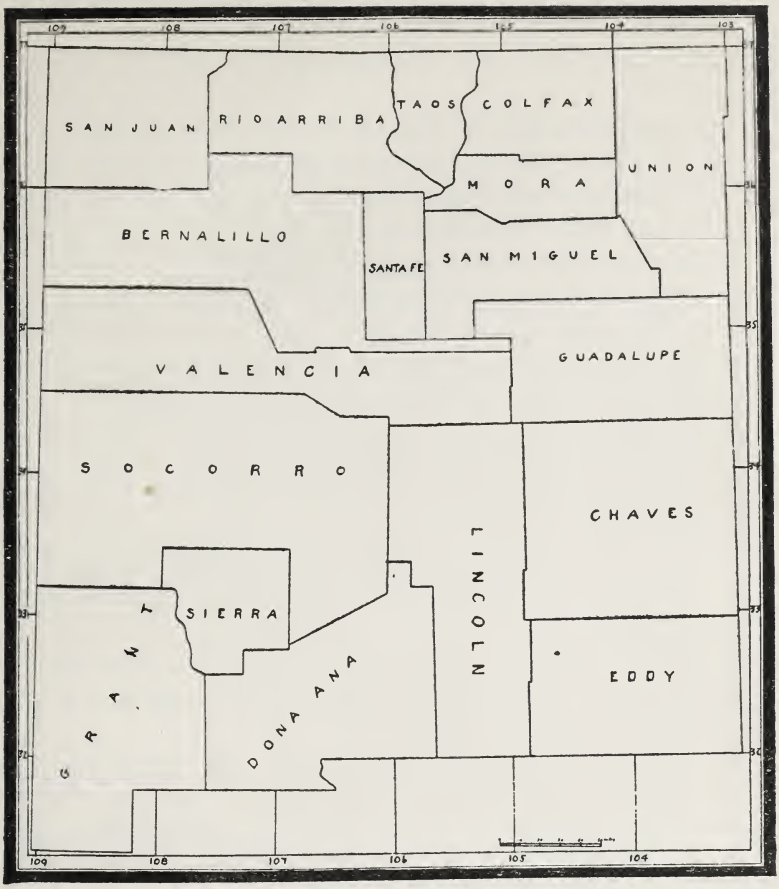
[47]*Ibid.*, p. 42. See Map No. 7.



No. 6—New Mexico Counties in 1890

ran north from the point where the northern boundary of Bernalillo County met the western line of Santa Fé County; thence north to the northwestern corner of Santa Fé County; thence west on the Fifth Standard Parallel to the New Mexico Principal Meridian; thence north to the southeastern corner of Township 24 North of Range 1 West; thence west on the township line between Townships 23 and 24 North; thence to the boundary of San Juan County; and thence west as established by law.[48]

[48]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1895*, p. 41.



No. 7—New Mexico Counties in 1895

The western boundary of Guadalupe County was changed February 13, 1897. The new line ran from the corner of Townships 11 and 12 North between Ranges 15 and 16 East; thence south between Ranges 15 and 16 East to the northern boundary of Valencia County; thence east along the northern boundary of Valencia County to the range line between Ranges 18 and 19 East; thence south along the range line to the northeastern corner of Township 1 North of Range 18 East.[49]

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[49]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1897*, p. 22.

Otero County was created January 30, 1899 out of the southern part of Lincoln County, the eastern part of Doña Ana County, and the southeastern corner of Socorro County.[50]

The boundary line of Chaves County was changed January 30, 1899. All of that part of Lincoln County south of the line between Townships 13 and 14 South and not included in Otero County was annexed to Chaves County.[51]

McKinley County was organized February 23, 1899. It was bounded on the north by San Juan County; on the east the line ran south from the San Juan County line between Ranges 8 and 9 West; thence west along the line between Townships 13 and 14 North to the Arizona line.[52]

The northern boundary of Valencia County was changed February 23, 1899. All of Bernalillo County south of the southern line of McKinley County was annexed to Valencia County.[53]

Luna County was organized March 16, 1901 from the eastern part of Grant County and the western part of Doña Ana County.[54]

McKinley County was enlarged March 18, 1901 by the addition of a part of western Bernalillo County and a part of northern Valencia County.[55]

The original description of Taos County dated January 9, 1852, was changed March 19, 1901. The words "by all the land belonging to the Territory of New Mexico," were struck out and there was inserted the words "by the boundary line of the Territory of New Mexico."[56]

Quay County was created January 28, 1903. The original county was made from the southern part of Union County and the eastern part of Guadalupe County.[57]

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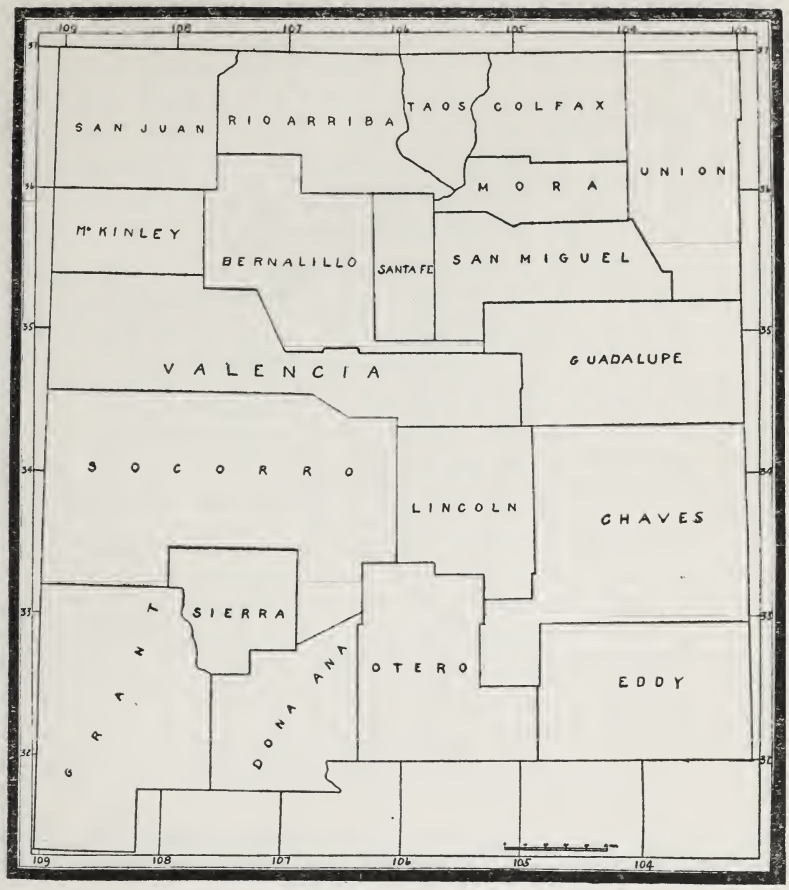
[50]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1899*, p. 21.
[51]*Ibid.*
[52]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1899*, p. 43.
[53]*Ibid.*, p. 45.
[54]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1901*, p. 70. See Map No. 8.
[55]*Ibid.*, p. 75.
[56]*Ibid.*, p. 103.
[57]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1903*, p. 16. See Map No. 9.



No. 8—New Mexico Counties in 1900

Roosevelt County was organized February 28, 1903. The original county included the southeastern part of Guadalupe County and the northeastern part of Chaves County.[58]

Rio Arriba County was enlarged March 10, 1903. The precinct of Española of Santa Fé County was detached from that county and annexed to Rio Arriba County.[59]

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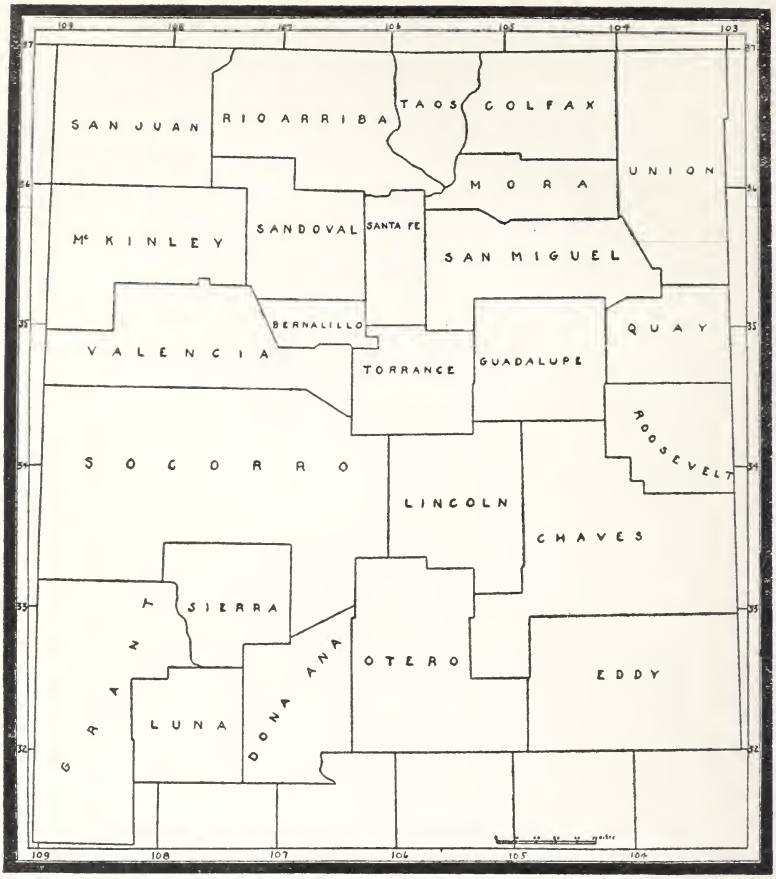
[58]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1903*, p. 12.
[59]*Ibid.*, p. 35.



No. 9—New Mexico Counties in 1903

Sandoval County was organized out of the northern part of Bernalillo County March 10, 1903. This act defined the boundaries of Sandoval County as that part of Bernalillo County lying north of the present southern line of Sandoval County. An act was passed February 20, 1905 which abolished and recreated Sandoval County giving in detail the boundaries.[60]

[60]*Ibid.*, p. 37; New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1905*, p. 34.

Torrance County was created March 16, 1903. It included the eastern part of Valencia County, the eastern part of Bernalillo County, the northeastern corner of Socorro County, and the northwestern part of Lincoln County. The eastern and northern lines of Torrance County were slightly changed February 2, 1905.[61]

Leonard Wood County was the name applied to Guadalupe County by an act passed March 16, 1903. The old Guadalupe County had been decreased in size at the time that Roosevelt County was created and had been enlarged by a part of the eastern part of Valencia County as a result of the creation of Torrance County.[62]

The Taos County and the Rio Arriba County boundary was changed February 20, 1905. The new line ran from the point where the old line crossed the Rio Grande; thence in a straight line to the north side of the house of Antonio Domingo Lucero; thence west crossing the Ojo Caliente River to the summit of the Hot Springs Mountains; thence north to the junction of the Cañada de los Comanches with the Ojo Caliente River; then following the wagon road to the house of Juan Estevan Rodriguez at Tres Piedras; thence west with the arroyo of Tres Piedras one mile; thence north one mile; thence east to the present dividing line of the counties; and thence to the Colorado line.[63]

The name of Leonard Wood County was changed February 23, 1905 to that of Guadalupe County which had been the name of the county at an earlier time.[64]

The northern boundary of Quay County was changed to the present line March 20, 1907. This change resulted in adding to Quay County a part of southern Union County and a part of southeastern San Miguel County.[65]

Curry County was organized February 25, 1909. It was

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[61]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1903*, p. 132; New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1905*, p. 2.

[62]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1903*, p. 127.

[63]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1905*, p. 39.

[64]*Ibid.*, p. 57.

[65]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1907*, p. 123.

made from the southeastern part of Quay County and the northeastern part of Roosevelt County. No changes have been made in the boundaries of this county.[66]

The eastern boundary of Sierra County was changed March 17, 1909 in such a manner as to include most of the southeastern part of Socorro County. However, this act was not approved by Congress and therefore did not become effective.[67]

The Socorro County and the Lincoln County boundary was changed March 18, 1909. The northern part of the line was placed one row of townships to the east and the southern part of the line three rows of townships to the west, thus changing the boundary from the former straight line to the present irregular one by making a part of Lincoln County a part of Socorro County and a part of Socorro County a part of Lincoln County.[68]

De Baca County was organized February 28, 1917 from parts of Chaves County, Guadalupe County, and Roosevelt County.[69]

The boundaries of Roosevelt County were changed February 28, 1917. The eastern part of the county was made a part of De Baca County and the northern part of Chaves County was made a part of Roosevelt County.

Lea County was created March 7, 1917 from the eastern part of Chaves County and Eddy County.[70]

The Socorro County and Grant County, and the Sierra County and Grant County lines were redefined March 12, 1917. The object of the act was to make these lines more definite and easier to survey.[71]

Hidalgo County was created February 25, 1919 out of the southern part of Grant County.[72]

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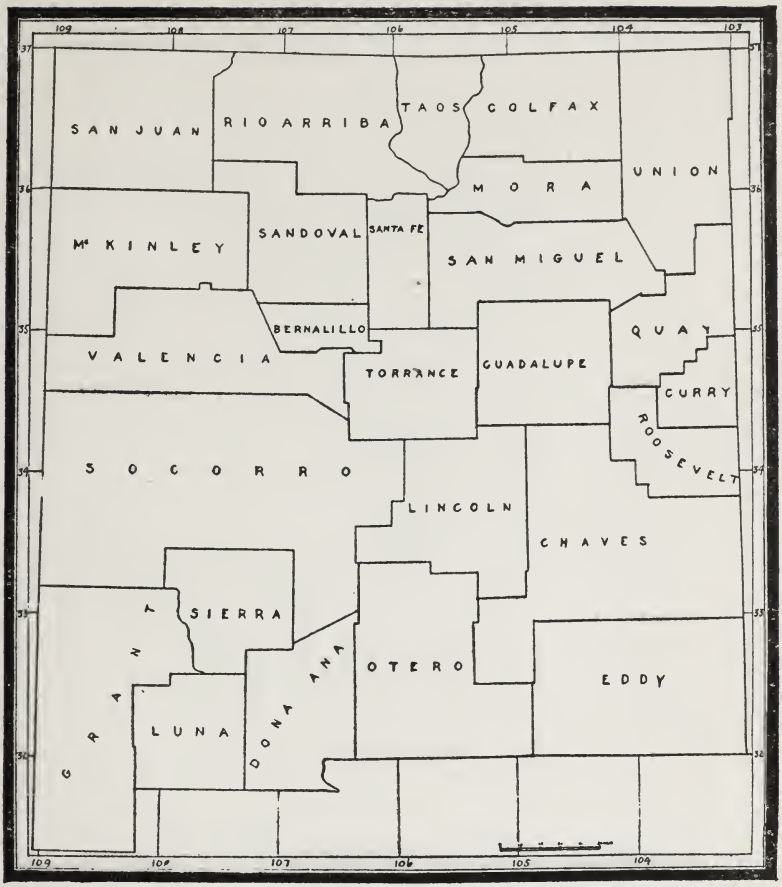
[66]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1909*, p. 9.
[67]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1909*, p. 160.
[68]*Ibid.*, p. 326. See Map No. 10.
[69]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1917*, p. 41.
[70]*Ibid.*, p. 108.
[71]*Ibid.*, p. 178.
[72]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1919*, p. 11.



No. 10—New Mexico Counties in 1910

Catron County was organized February 25, 1921 from the western part of Socorro County.[73]

Harding County was created March 4, 1921. It was made up of a part of eastern Mora County and a part of southern Union County.[74]

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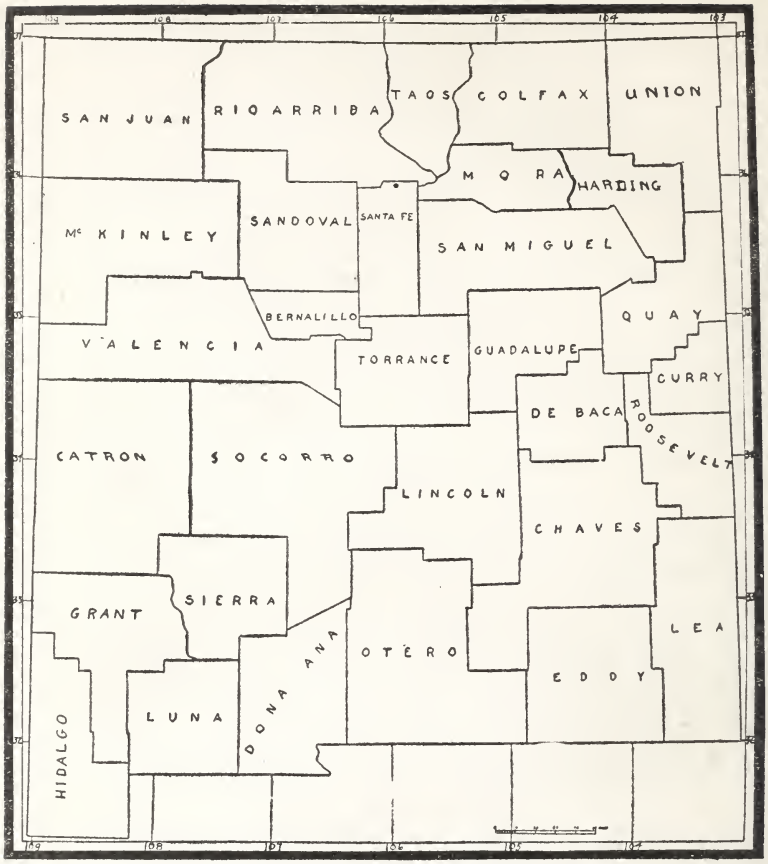
[73]New Mexico. *Session Laws, 1921*, p. 37.
[74]*Ibid.*, p. 106.



No. 11—New Mexico Counties in 1921

NEW MEXICO TERRITORIAL AND STATE ACTS RELATING TO COUNTY BOUNDARIES

ARIZONA

References	Page	Remarks
Sess. Laws 1859–60:	76	Arizona Co. created.
Sess. Laws 1861–62:	16	Arizona Co. abolished.
Sess. Laws 1862–63:	30	Arizona Co. re-created.
Act of Cong. Feb. 24, 1863		Arizona Co. abolished.

BERNALILLO COUNTY

Sess. Laws 1851–52:	292	Bernalillo Co. lines defined. The name of a Mexican Co., cont. with changed lines.
Law not located but evidence certain.		San Miguel Co. extended so as to include the eastern part of Bernalillo Co.
Sess. Laws 1869–70:	44	Small area along southern border east of Rio Grande given to Valencia Co.
Sess. Laws 1875–76:	38	Santa Ana Co. added to Bernalillo Co.
Sess. Laws 1882:	174	Santa Fe Co. western line defined.
Sess. Laws 1889:	301	Santa Fe western and southern line defined.
Sess. Laws 1891:	106	Santa Fé Co. southern line defined.
Sess. Laws 1895:	41	Bernalillo-Rio Arriba line changed—part of Rio Arriba Co. to Bernalillo Co.
Sess. Laws 1897:	22	Bernalillo-Guadalupe line changed—part of Bernalillo Co. to Guadalupe Co.
Sess. Laws 1899:	43	McKinley Co. created out of western part of Bernalillo Co. Valencia Co. given part of western part of Bernalillo Co.
Sess. Laws 1901:	75	McKinley Co. enlarged by part of Bernalillo Co. east of original McKinley Co.
Sess. Laws 1903:	37	Sandoval Co. created from northern part of Bernalillo Co.
Sess. Laws 1905:	34	Rio Arriba Co. given part of northern Sandoval Co.
Sess. Laws 1903:	132	Torrance Co. given part of southern Bernalillo Co.
Sess. Laws 1905:	2	Torrance Co. given additional part of southern Bernalillo Co.

CATRON COUNTY

Sess. Laws 1921:	37	Catron Co. created out of the western part of Socorro Co.

CHAVES COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1889: 202	Chaves Co. created out of the northeastern part of Lincoln Co.
Sess. Laws	1899: 21	Lincoln Co. territory added to Chaves Co.
Sess. Laws	1903: 12	Roosevelt Co. given part of northeastern Chaves Co.
Sess. Laws	1917: 41	De Baca Co. given part of northern Chaves Co.
Sess. Laws	1917: 41	Roosevelt Co. given part of eastern Chaves Co.
Sess. Laws	1917: 108	Lea Co. given eastern part of Chaves Co.

COLFAX COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1868–69: 47	Mora Co. territory, northern part, taken for creation of Colfax.
Sess. Laws	1875–76: 162	Mora-Colfax line defined.
Sess. Laws	1882: 158	Mora-Colfax line defined.
Sess. Laws	1893: 68	Union Co. created including eastern part of Colfax Co.
Sess. Laws	1895: 43	Union Co. lines defined.

CURRY COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1909: 9	Quay Co., southeastern part, taken to form part of Curry Co. Roosevelt Co., northeastern part, taken to form part of Curry Co.

DE BACA COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1917: 41	Chaves Co., northern part, taken to form part of De Baca Co. Guadalupe Co., southeastern part, taken to form part of De Baca Co. Roosevelt Co., western part, taken to form part of De Baca Co.

DONA ANA COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1851–52: 265	Socorro Co., southern part, taken to form Doña Ana Co.
Sess. Laws	1851–52: 292	Doña Ana Co. lines defined.
Sess. Laws	1854–55: 57	Gadsden Purchase territory added to Doña Ana Co.

Sess. Laws 1859–60:	76	Arizona Co. formed from western part of Doña Ana Co.
Sess. Laws 1861–62:	16	Arizona Co. abolished and territory re-annexed to Doña Ana Co.
Sess. Laws 1862–63:	30	Arizona Co. re-established with same lines as under original act.
Act of Cong. Feb. 24, 1863		Arizona Territory created.
Sess. Laws 1866–67:	104	Socorro-Doña Ana line defined.
Sess. Laws 1867–68:	88	Grant Co. formed from western part of Doña Ana Co.
Sess. Laws 1869–70:	36	Socorro-Doña Ana line defined.
Sess. Laws 1871–72:	4	Socorro-Doña Ana line defined.
Sess. Laws 1878:	83	Lincoln Co. enlarged so as to include eastern part of Doña Ana Co.
Sess. Laws 1880:	8	Socorro-Doña line defined.
Sess. Laws 1880:	99	Grant-Doña Ana line defined.
Sess. Laws 1884:	223	Sierra Co., southern part, formed from northeastern part of Doña Ana Co.
Sess. Laws 1887:	39	Socorro Co. territory, isolated by establishment of Sierra Co., added to Doña Ana Co.
Sess. Laws 1887:	39	Lincoln-Doña Ana line defined.
Sess. Laws 1889:	92	Lincoln-Doña Ana line defined.
Sess. Laws 1899:	21	Otero Co., western part, formed from eastern part of Doña Ana Co.
Sess. Laws 1901:	70	Luna Co., eastern part, formed from western part of Doña Ana Co.

EDDY COUNTY

Sess. Laws 1889:	202	Lincoln Co., southeastern part taken to form Eddy Co.
Sess. Laws 1895:	42	Lincoln-Eddy line defined.
Sess. Laws 1917:	108	Lea Co., southern part, formed from eastern part of Eddy Co.

GRANT COUNTY

Sess. Laws 1867–68:	88	Doña Ana Co., western part, taken to form Grant Co.
Sess. Laws 1880:	99	Doña Ana-Grant line defined.
Sess. Laws 1884:	223	Sierra Co., western part, formed from northeastern part of Doña Ana Co.
Sess. Laws 1901:	70	Luna Co., western part, formed from southeastern part of Grant Co.
Sess. Laws 1917:	178	Socorro-Grant line defined.

Sierra-Grant line defined.

Sess. Laws	1919:	11	Hidalgo Co., formed from the southern part of Grant Co.

GUADALUPE COUNTY (Leonard Wood Co., 1903-1905)

Sess. Laws	1891:	175	San Miguel Co., southern part, taken to form Guadalupe Co.
Sess. Laws	1893:	32	Above law re-enacted.
Sess. Laws	1897:	22	Bernalillo Co., eastern part, added to western part of Guadalupe Co.
Sess. Laws	1903:	16	Quay Co., southern part, taken from northeastern part of Guadalupe Co.
Sess. Laws	1903:	12	Roosevelt Co., northern part, taken from southeastern part of Guadalupe Co.
Sess. Laws	1903:	127	Valencia Co., eastern part, added to Guadalupe Co. Name of Guadalupe Co. changed to Leonard Wood Co.
Sess. Laws	1905:	57	Leonard Wood Co. name changed to Guadalupe Co.
Sess. Laws	1917:	41	De Baca Co., northwestern part, formed from the southeastern part of Guadalupe Co.

HARDING COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1921:	106	Harding Co. created from the eastern part of Mora Co. and the southern part of Union Co.

HIDALGO COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1919:	11	Grant Co., southern part, taken to form Hidalgo Co.

LEA COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1917:	108	Chaves Co., southeastern part, taken to form the northern part of Lea Co.
Sess. Laws	1917:	108	Eddy Co., eastern part, taken to form the southern part of Lea Co.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1868–69:	20	Socorro Co., eastern part, taken to form Lincoln Co.

Sess. Laws	1878:	83	Doña Ana Co., eastern part, added to Lincoln Co., southern part.
Sess. Laws	1887:	39	Doña Ana-Lincoln line defined.
Sess. Laws	1889:	92	Doña Ana-Lincoln line defined.
Sess. Laws	1889:	202	Chaves Co. formed from the northeastern part of Lincoln Co. Eddy Co. formed from the southeastern part of Lincoln Co.
Sess. Laws	1893:	36	Valencia Co., southeastern part, enlarged by part of northern Lincoln Co.
Sess. Laws	1893:	36	Socorro-Lincoln line defined.
Sess. Laws	1895:	42	Eddy-Lincoln line defined.
Sess. Laws	1899:	21	Otero Co., eastern part, formed from southern Lincoln Co.
Sess. Laws	1899:	21	Chaves Co., southwestern part, enlarged by addition of a part of Lincoln Co.
Sess. Laws	1903:	132	Torrance Co., southern part, formed from northern part of Lincoln Co.
Sess. Laws	1909:	326	Socorro Co., northeastern part, enlarged by addition from Lincoln Co. Socorro Co., southeastern part, diminished by addition to Lincoln Co.

LUNA COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1901:	70	Doña Ana Co., western part, taken to form eastern part of Luna Co. Grant Co., eastern part, taken to form the western part of Luna Co.

MCKINLEY COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1899:	43	Bernalillo Co., western part, taken to form McKinley Co.
Sess. Laws	1901:	75	Bernalillo Co., western part, taken to enlarge McKinley Co. Valencia Co., northwestern part, taken to form a part of the enlarged McKinley Co.

MORA COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1859–60:	76	Taos Co., eastern part, taken to form Mora Co.
Act of Cong. Feb. 28, 1861			Colorado Territory, southeastern part, formed from Mora Co., New Mexico.

Sess. Laws 1867–68:	106	Taos-Mora line defined.
Sess. Laws 1868–69:	47	Colfax Co. formed from the northern part of Mora Co.
Sess. Laws 1875–76:	162	Colfax-Mora line defined.
Sess. Laws 1882:	176	San Miguel-Mora line defined.
Sess. Laws 1882:	158	Colfax-Mora line defined.
Sess. Laws 1889:	89	San Miguel-Mora line defined.
Sess. Laws 1893:	68	Union Co., central part, taken from eastern part of Mora Co.
Sess. Laws 1921:	106	Harding Co., western part, taken from Mora Co.

OTERO COUNTY

Sess. Laws 1899:	21	Lincoln Co., southern part, taken to form eastern part of Otero Co. Doña Ana Co., eastern part, taken to form western part of Otero Co.

QUAY COUNTY

Sess. Laws 1903:	16	Guadalupe Co., northeastern part, taken to form part of Quay Co. San Miguel Co., southeastern part taken to form northwestern part of Quay Co. Union Co., southern part, taken to form northern part of Quay Co.
Sess. Laws 1907:	123	San Miguel Co., southeastern part, added to northwestern part of Quay Co. Union Co., southern part, taken to form addition to Quay Co.
Sess. Laws 1909:	9	Curry Co., northern part, formed from southeastern part of Quay Co.

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY

Sess. Laws 1851–52:	291	Original county included the territory between Taos Co., Santa Fé Co., and Santa Ana Co.
Sess. Laws 1880:	103	Taos Co. west of the present western boundary added to Rio Arriba Co.
Sess. Laws 1887:	38	San Juan Co. formed from the western part of Rio Arriba Co.
Sess. Laws 1889:	106	Santa Fé-Rio Arriba line defined.
Sess. Laws 1895:	41	Bernalillo-Rio Arriba line defined.

Sess. Laws	1903:	35	Santa Fé Co., northwestern part, taken to form part of Rio Arriba Co.
Sess. Laws	1905:	39	Taos-Rio Arriba line defined.
Sess. Laws	1905:	34	Sandoval Co. northern line redefined giving territory to Rio Arriba Co.

ROOSEVELT COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1903:	12	Guadalupe Co., southeastern part, taken to form northern part of Roosevelt Co. Chaves Co., northeastern part, taken to form southern part of Roosevelt Co.
Sess. Laws	1909:	9	Curry Co., southern part, formed from northeastern part of Roosevelt Co.
Sess. Laws	1917:	41	De Baca Co., southeastern part formed from western part of Roosevelt Co. Chaves Co., northeastern part, added to Roosevelt Co.

SANTA FE COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1851–52:	291	Original county included the territory between Santa Ana Co., Rio Arriba Co., San Miguel Co., and Bernalillo Co.
Sess. Laws	1863–64:	88	San Miguel-Santa Fé boundary defined.
Sess. Laws	1868–69:	28	Rio Arriba Co., southeastern part, added to Santa Fé Co.
Sess. Laws	1869–70:	40	Above law repealed.
Sess. Laws	1882:	174	Santa Fé Co. lines defined.
Sess. Laws	1889:	301	Santa Fé Co. lines defined.
Sess. Laws	1891:	106	Santa Fé Co. lines defined.
Sess. Laws	1903:	35	Rio Arriba Co. enlarged by addition from northwestern part of Santa Fé Co.
Sess. Laws	1903:	132	Torrance Co., northern part formed from southern part of Santa Fé Co.

SANTA ANA COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1851–52:	292	Original county included territory between Rio Arriba Co., Santa Fé Co., and Bernalillo Co.
Sess. Laws	1875–76:	38	Bernalillo Co. enlarged by the addition of Santa Ana Co.

SAN JUAN COUNTY

Sess. Laws 1860–61:	17	Rio Arriba Co., western part, taken to form southern part of San Juan Co.
		Taos Co., western part, taken to form northern part of San Juan Co.
Sess. Laws 1861–62:	16	San Juan Co. abolished.
Sess. Laws 1887:	38	Rio Arriba Co., western part, taken to form San Juan Co.

SANDOVAL COUNTY

Sess. Laws 1903:	37	Bernalillo Co., northern part, taken to form Sandoval Co.
Sess. Laws 1905:	34	Rio Arriba Co., addition from the northern part of Sandoval Co.

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY

Sess. Laws 1851–52:	291	Original county included territory between Taos Co., Santa Fé Co., and Bernalillo Co.
Sess. Laws 1863–64:	88	San Miguel-Santa Fé line defined.
		San Miguel Co. extended so as to include the eastern part of Bernalillo Co. and Valencio Co., and the northeastern part of Socorro Co.
Sess. Laws 1882:	176	Mora-San Miguel line defined.
Sess. Laws 1882:	174	Santa Fé-San Miguel line defined.
Sess. Laws 1889:	89	Mora-San Miguel line defined.
Sess. Laws 1889:	301	Santa-Fé-San Miguel line defined.
Sess. Laws 1891:	175	Guadalupe Co. formed from the southeastern part of San Miguel Co.
Sess. Laws 1893:	68	Union Co., southern part, formed from the eastern part of San Miguel Co.
Sess. Laws 1903:	16	Guadalupe Co., northern part, added to San Miguel Co. when Quay Co. was created.
Sess. Laws 1903:	132	Torrance Co., northern part included southwestern part of San Miguel Co.
Sess. Laws 1905:	2	Torrance Co., northern part, enlarged by additional part from southwestern San Miguel Co.
Sess. Laws 1907:	123	Quay Co., northwestern part, addition of southeastern part of San Miguel Co.

Sess. Laws	1851–52: 265	Doña Ana Co. formed from the southern part of Socorro Co.
Sess. Laws	1851–52: 292	Socorro Co. territory included that between Valencia Co. and Socorro Co. San Miguel Co. extended so as to include part of northeastern Socorro Co.
Sess. Laws	1866–67: 104	Doña Ana-Socorro line defined.
Sess. Laws	1868–69: 20	Lincoln Co. formed from the eastern part of Socorro Co.
Sess. Laws	1869–70: 36	Doña Ana-Socorro line defined.
Sess. Laws	1871–72: 4	Doña Ana-Socorro line defined.
Sess. Laws	1880: 98	Doña Ana-Socorro line defined.
Sess. Laws	1884: 223	Sierra Co., northern part, formed from southern part of Socorro Co.
Sess. Laws	1887: 39	Doña Ana-Socorro line defined.
Sess. Laws	1893: 36	Lincoln-Socorro line defined.
Sess. Laws	1899: 21	Otero Co., northwestern part, formed from southeastern part of Socorro Co.
Sess. Laws	1903: 132	Torrance Co., southwestern part, formed from northeastern part of Socorro Co.
Sess. Laws	1905: 2	Torrance Co., southwestern part, addition from northeastern Socorro Co.
Sess. Laws	1909: 160	Sierra Co., eastern part, enlarged by addition from southern Socorro Co., but law not ratified by Congress.
Sess. Laws	1909: 326	Lincoln Co., northwestern part, taken to form part of northeastern Socorro Co. Lincoln Co., southwestern part, addition made from southeastern Socorro Co.
Sess. Laws	1917: 178	Grant-Socorro line defined.
Sess. Laws	1921: 37	Catron Co. created out of western part of Socorro Co.

SIERRA COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1884: 223	Socorro Co., southern part, formed northern part of Sierra Co. Grant Co., northeastern part, formed western part of Sierra Co. Doña Ana Co., northwestern part, formed southeastern part of Sierra Co.
Sess. Laws	1909: 160	Socorro Co., southern part, added to eastern part of Sierra Co. but not ratified by Congress.
Sess. Laws	1917: 178	Grant-Sierra line defined.

TAOS COUNTY

Sess. Laws 1851–52: 291		The original county included the territory north of San Miguel Co., Santa Fé Co., and Rio Arriba Co.
Sess. Laws 1859–60: 76		Mora Co. formed from the eastern part of Taos Co.
Sess. Laws 1867–68: 106		Mora-Taos line defined.
Sess. Laws 1880: 103		Rio Arriba Co., northwestern part, enlarged by addition of all that part of Taos Co. west of the present western line.
Sess. Laws 1901: 103		Rio Arriba-Taos line, description changed.
Sess. Laws 1905: 39		Rio Arriba-Taos line defined.

TORRANCE COUNTY

Sess. Laws 1903: 132	Bernalillo Co., eastern part, taken to form northern part of Torrance Co. Santa Fé Co., southern part, taken to form northern part of Torrance Co. San Miguel Co., southwestern part, taken to form northeastern part of Torrance Co. Valencia Co., eastern part, taken to form central part of Torrance Co. Lincoln Co., northwestern part, taken to form southeastern part of Torrance Co. Socorro Co., northeastern part, taken to form southwestern part of Torrance Co.
Sess. Laws 1905: 2	San Miguel Co., southwestern part, addition made to Torrance Co. Valencia Co., eastern part, addition made to Torrance Co. Socorro Co., northeastern part, addition made to Torrance Co.

UNION COUNTY

Sess. Laws 1893: 68	Colfax Co., eastern part taken to from northern part of Union Co. Mora Co., eastern part, taken to form central part of Union Co. San Miguel Co., eastern part, taken to form southern part of Union Co.

Sess. Laws	1895: 43	Union Co. lines defined.
Sess. Laws	1903: 16	Quay Co., northern part, formed from southern part of Union Co.
Sess. Laws	1907: 123	Quay Co., northern part, enlarged from the southern part of Union Co.

VALENCIA COUNTY

Sess. Laws	1851–52: 292	Original county included the territory between Bernalillo Co. and Socorro Co. San Miguel Co., southern part, enlarged to include eastern part of Valencia Co.
Sess. Laws	1869–70: 44	Bernalillo Co., southern part, added to Valencia Co.
Sess. Laws	1893: 36	Lincoln Co., northern part, added to Valencia Co.
Sess. Laws	1903: 127	Guadalupe Co., western part, enlarged by addition from eastern part of Valencia Co.
Sess. Laws	1903: 16	Torrance Co., central part, formed from eastern part of Valencia Co.
Sess. Laws	1905: 12	Torrance Co., western part, addition from eastern part of Valencia Co.

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